

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-9 (canceled)

1 10 (currently amended): An isolated nucleic acid that encodes [a UCP2] an
2 Uncoupling Protein 2 (UCP2) polypeptide [in accordance with claim 4], wherein the codon of
3 said nucleic acid corresponding to the codon encoding amino acid residue 55 (Ala) of SEQ ID
4 NO:1 is a member selected from the group consisting of GCT, GCC, GCA, and GCG, wherein
5 the codon corresponding to the codon encoding amino acid residue 219 (Thr) of SEQ ID NO:1 is
6 a member selected from the group consisting of ACT, ACC, ACA, and ACG, and wherein said
7 nucleic acid is operably linked to a promoter.

1 11 (original): An isolated nucleic acid that encodes a UCP2 polypeptide in
2 accordance with claim 10, wherein said nucleic acid is contained in an expression vector.

1 12 (currently amended): An expression vector containing [the] a nucleic acid [of
2 claim 4] encoding [a UCP2] an Uncoupling Protein 2 (UCP2) polypeptide in operative
3 association with a regulatory element that controls expression of the nucleic acid in a host cell,
4 wherein the codon of said nucleic acid corresponding to the codon encoding amino acid residue
5 55 (Ala) of SEQ ID NO:1 is a member selected from the group consisting of GCT, GCC, GCA,
6 and GCG, and wherein the codon corresponding to the codon encoding amino acid residue 219
7 (Thr) of SEQ ID NO:1 is a member selected from the group consisting of ACT, ACC, ACA, and
8 ACG.

1 13 (currently amended): A cell comprising a recombinant nucleic acid [in
2 accordance with claim 4] encoding an Uncoupling Protein 2 (UCP2) polypeptide, wherein the
3 codon of said nucleic acid corresponding to the codon encoding amino acid residue 55 (Ala) of

- 4 SEQ ID NO:1 is a member selected from the group consisting of GCT, GCC, GCA, and GCG,
5 and wherein the codon corresponding to the codon encoding amino acid residue 219 (Thr) of
6 SEQ ID NO:1 is a member selected from the group consisting of ACT, ACC, ACA, and ACG.

1 14 (original): A cell in accordance with claim 13, wherein said recombinant
2 nucleic acid is in operative association with a regulatory element that controls the expression of
3 the nucleic acid in a host cell.

1 15 (currently amended): A method of making [a UCP2] an Uncoupling Protein 2
2 (UCP2) polypeptide, said method comprising:

3 introducing a nucleic acid [of claim 4] encoding a UCP2 polypeptide into a host
4 cell or cellular extract, wherein the codon of said nucleic acid corresponding to the codon
5 encoding amino acid residue 55 (Ala) of SEQ ID NO:1 is a member selected from the group
6 consisting of GCT, GCC, GCA, and GCG, and wherein the codon corresponding to the codon
7 encoding amino acid residue 219 (Thr) of SEQ ID NO:1 is a member selected from the group
8 consisting of ACT, ACC, ACA, and ACG;

9 incubating said host cell or cellular extract under conditions such that said UCP2
10 polypeptide is expressed in said host cell or cellular extract; and

11 recovering said UCP2 polypeptide from said host cell or cellular extract.

16-23 (canceled)

1 24 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 10, wherein said codon corresponding to
2 codon 55 of SEQ ID NO:1 is GCC.

1 25 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 10, wherein said codon corresponding to
2 codon 219 of SEQ ID NO:1 is ACT.

1 26 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 10, wherein the UCP2 polypeptide has the
2 amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

1 27 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 10, wherein the nucleic acid has the
2 nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.